

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND ANALYSIS

This section contains the Initial Study (IS) that was conducted for the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) Proposed Sale of School Lands in Imperial County (Project) in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS identifies site-specific conditions and impacts and evaluates their potential significance. The information, analysis and conclusions included in the IS provide the basis for determining the appropriate document needed to comply with CEQA. Based on the analysis and information contained in the IS, CSLC staff believes the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. As a result, the CSLC has concluded that a Negative Declaration (ND) is the appropriate CEQA document for the Project.

The evaluation of environmental impacts provided in this IS based in part on the impact questions contained in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines; these questions, which are included in an impact assessment matrix for each environmental category (Aesthetics, Agriculture/Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, etc.), are “intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts.” Each question is followed by a check-marked box with column headings that are defined below.

- **Potentially Significant Impact.** This column is checked if there is substantial evidence that a Project-related environmental effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impacts,” a Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be prepared.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** This column is checked when the Project may result in a significant environmental impact, but the incorporation of identified Project revisions or mitigation measures would reduce the identified effect(s) to a less than significant level.
- **Less than Significant Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would not result in any significant effects. The Project’s impact would be less than significant even without the incorporation of Project-specific mitigation measures.
- **No Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would not result in any impact in the category or the category does not apply.

The environmental factors checked below would be affected by this Project; there is one impact that would be a “Less than Significant Impact.”

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forest Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems	

1 Detailed descriptions and analyses of impacts from the Project and the basis for their
2 significance determinations are provided for each environmental factor on the following
3 pages, beginning with Section 3.1, Aesthetics. Relevant laws, regulations, and policies
4 potentially applicable to the Project are listed in the Regulatory Setting for each
5 environmental factor analyzed in this IS.

6 AGENCY STAFF DETERMINATION

7 Based on the environmental impact analysis provided by this Initial Study:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

8 _____
Signature

Date

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